

OFFICIAL DISPATCH NOT SUITABLE FOR MICROFILM

VIA: AIR
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DISPATCH NO. 143-139

SECRET

CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief of Base, Salzburg

DATE: FEB 2 1953

FROM : Chief, WE

INFO: YES

SUBJECT: GENERAL - Operational/PROOVY

SPECIFIC - GROSSBAHN - CO-2

0 USAGE - Austria

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 2 1953	
FBI - NEW YORK	

Reference: RARA 372, 409, 446, SALT 921

1. With regard to the security problem brought to light by the HSCC disclosure, we have withheld comment since HSCC-2-2, pending receipt of the present carriage report on CO-2, since there seemed to be little additional advice to offer from here. However, the study of RARA 446 brings up a number of new points, and the receipt of SALT 921 suggests that a report on the interrogation of CO-2 will not reach here for some days, hence the present dispatch.

2. Of great interest was the letter written by CO-2 to GROSSBAHN (sent in an attachment to RARA 409), as it offered a good insight into CO-2's personality and the working of his mind. We are inclined to agree with the point of view implied in paragraph 2 of RARA 446 that a campaign of character assassination against CO-2 would not be of appreciable advantage to us, at least as things stand at the present time. Looking at the situation realistically, CO-2 has probably already done as much damage to the GROSSBAHN operation as he is apt or able to do in the future, unless he harbors a very strong grudge against GROSSBAHN and/or our organization. In tendering his resignation to GROSSBAHN in such a way as to give him two months' notice, CO-2 seems to wish to bow out gracefully. In the forthcoming interrogation of CO-2, the important thing is to debrief him thoroughly as to the extent of his revelations to HORTIL and possibly others, and also to make him realize that it would be very detrimental to him to make further revelations after slipping from GROSSBAHN. However, the foregoing is more easily said than done, especially as CO-2 is eager to leave his present intelligence work with GROSSBAHN, and already feels a sense of hostility towards KURARI ("...oben ein gewisses Misstrauen gegen mich besteht"). Moreover, CO-2 feels closer to HORTIL than to GROSSBAHN, so it will be extremely difficult to get him to reveal truthfully what he has told HORTIL. If the going is bitter, then CO-2 - especially if he goes off to Germany - will probably not hesitate to talk, even though GROSSBAHN may threaten to reveal his serious indiscretions. The interrogation of CO-2, even though difficult, is very important, and we wish the undertaking the best of luck.

EE/PE/PO PS.

COORDINATING OFFICER

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DEF. C. B.

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